



Aspen Environmental Group

PROJECT MEMORANDUM PG&E JEFFERSON-MARTIN 230KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

To: Billie Blanchard, CPUC
From: Vida Strong, Aspen Project Manager
Date: February 23, 2005
Subject: Weekly Report #5: February 13, 2005 – February 19, 2005
CPUC Environmental Monitor (EM): Jody Fessler

Aspen EM Jody Fessler was on site from February 14 through February 18 on Segments 1, 2, and 5 to monitor construction activities. Aspen Lead EM Christopher Meyer was on site February 14 and attended the Tuesday Segment 1 and 5 construction meetings.

SEGMENT 1:

Summary of Activity:

Construction activities continued during the subject week with excavation of manholes, placement of vaults, excavation of trenches, and installation of conduit. Rain fell on the project area (heavy at times) on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. PG&E Environmental Inspectors (EI) were on-site to ensure compliance with the adopted EIR, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and other permit requirements. Three PG&E EIs were on-site to inspect environmental compliance at the work sites and three biological monitors were located on the west side of Cañada Road to watch for frogs and snakes and to make sure these species did not enter the work site. Erosion controls were inspected and adjusted on Monday based on suggestions from the Lead CPUC EM. The following activities occurred on Segment 1 during the subject week:

1. On February 14, crews started excavating at Manhole #5 (Station #69+50 to 74+00) and Manhole #6 (Station #87+50 to 92+00) on Cañada Road (see Figure #1). The soil from the Manhole #5 pit and Manhole #6 pit was transported to Ox Mountain landfill in Half Moon Bay (Class 3 facility). Groundwater was a problem at Manhole #6 and the west side of the pit kept caving in. Crews shored the pits on the first day of excavation. The manhole vault pits were dug to a level of approximately 12 to 13 feet. On Tuesday, a large crane was used to lower the vaults into the excavated pits. Once the vaults were set, crews poured cement slurry around and over the manhole vaults. After a load of cement slurry was emptied, the trucks washed out in the vault pits. Crews were still dealing with the cave-in issue at Manhole #6 on Tuesday evening. They had to cut the asphalt and remove it over the cave-in so that they could excavate the cave-in soils. On Wednesday, manhole rings were set for both vaults. The cement slurry pour around the vaults was finished on Wednesday (see Figure #2). On Thursday, the crew completed the asphalt paving on the road. A moth (unidentified species) was noted on the exclusion fencing near Manhole #5 (see Figure #3). All materials and traffic controls were removed from these sites at the end of the day Thursday.
2. Trenching activities began between Manhole #7 and Manhole #8 on Monday. Groundwater was still a problem just north of Manhole #7 (Station #106+00) where crews were trying to install conduit stub-outs from the vault. Crews were having a hard time excavating and shoring the area because of cave-ins. Throughout the week, trenching was also occurring from approximately Station #106+50 to 112+00. Crews were excavating, installing conduit, and pouring thermal cement slurry as they trenched north. Conduit was installed in the trench from approximately Station #106+50 to 112+00. Crews paved over the trenched area on Friday and finished around 1:30 PM (see Figure #4).

3. Traffic controls (signs, cones, and lights) were set up on Cañada Road. Traffic control flaggers were in place at either end of the construction areas along Cañada Road. Large vehicles were parked on either side of the manhole vaults to keep vehicles and people from entering the area. Traffic cones were left in place blocking off the eastern lane. Bright lights were set up on either end of the project at night. A small night crew stayed on-site at night and did some work. A biological monitor also stayed at the site at night to observe construction, watch for animals, and in case a crew member needed to move their vehicle.
4. On February 16, crews started painting Cañada Road and cutting asphalt for Manhole #1 (Station #4+60) and Manhole #2 (Station #19+80). No Biological Exclusion Fencing was planned to be installed unless the weather forecasted precipitation for next week. Excavation will take place at these areas next Tuesday. Monday is a holiday and no project work is allowed on San Mateo County roads.
5. On Friday, February 18, crews conducted cleanup activities along Cañada Road in preparation for the long holiday weekend.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

The CPUC EM observed that Segment 1 construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

On February 17, the CPUC EM contacted Bob Masuoka of PG&E and asked what the status of the SFPUC permits was for the bird surveyors. He said they were still in the process of obtaining access permits for them, but that they had temporary permission to be in the SFPUC lands to conduct their surveys if escorted with someone from PG&E. The CPUC EM informed him that she had heard that the bird surveyors had been kicked out of the SFPUC lands the day before during their surveying process. Bob said he would talk to Dave Thomas of PG&E and find out. The CPUC EM has not been updated regarding this issue. The CPUC EM observed a bird surveyor along Cañada Road on Wednesday, February 17, but only along the right-of-way and not beyond the SFPUC fence.

SEGMENT 2, UNDERGROUND & OVERHEAD

Summary of Activity

A Notice to Proceed has not been issued for the overhead component of Segment 2.

The Lead CPUC EM and the CPUC EM conducted a site visit of the underground and overhead sections of the segment on Monday. No work was observed along Segment 2.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

PG&E continues to work with CDFG regarding woodrat removal activities that previously occurred without CDFG concurrence.

SEGMENT 5:

Summary of Activity:

Construction activities continued during the subject week with the excavation of a manhole, placement of a vault, and installation of stub-outs on either side of the previously set manhole vault. Rain fell (heavy at times) on the project area on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. One of the PG&E EIs was on-site to ensure compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and other permit requirements. The following activities occurred on Segment 5 during the subject week:

1. Excavation of Manhole #67 (Station #1255-06) vault pit began February 14 along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on San Bruno Mountain. Due to inclement weather the pit was covered and secured with sandbags to prevent runoff from entering the pit (see Figure #5). Crews finished excavating the manhole to about 15 feet on Tuesday and the vault was installed on Wednesday. Cement slurry was poured on Thursday and final paving was completed on Friday.
2. Excavation of approximately 20 feet on either side of Manhole #68 (Station #1271+45) began on Monday for the installation of stub-outs. The trenches were shored on Tuesday and conduit installed on Wednesday. Thermal cement slurry was poured on Wednesday and Thursday. Paving was completed on Friday.
3. Traffic controls (signs, cones, and lights) were set up on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway. Traffic control flaggers were in place at either end of the construction areas. Large vehicles were parked on either side of the manhole vault to keep vehicles and people from entering the area. Traffic cones were left in place blocking off the southern lane. Bright lights were set up on either end of the project at night. A small night crew stayed on-site at night and did some light work.
3. On February 14, the Lead CPUC EM and the CPUC EM conducted a site visit during heavy rains and gave approval for storm water flowing down the side of the road to be diverted off the road into the graveled and vegetated areas as long as it did not create scour.
4. On February 16, the CPUC EM received a phone call from PG&E's EI informing her that 3300 gallons of water had been pumped out of Manhole #67 (Station #1255+06) vault pit and into an A1 Septic Company water truck and taken to their site in Hayward. The CPUC EM informed the PG&E EI that the activity would probably result in a Non-Compliance Report issued by the CPUC. The CPUC EM received a call later in the morning informing her that the water was being held in a water tank at the A1 Septic Company yard in Hayward and they would hold it until they got proper authorization to release it. The CPUC EM spoke with Jack Shane of A1 Septic who confirmed that they would hold it until directed to do otherwise. On February 16, the CPUC EM issued a Project Memorandum regarding the incident. PG&E and B&V are working with the RWQCB to obtain proper authorization and instructions for the discharge of stormwater and groundwater.
5. On February 16, crews started installing silt fencing and straw wattles around their staging yard (Variance #2) at the corner of Airport Boulevard and North Access Road in South San Francisco.
6. On Friday, January 18, crews conducted cleanup activities along Guadalupe Canyon Parkway in preparation for the long weekend.

Environmental Compliance Activities:

The CPUC EM issued a Project Memorandum on February 16 regarding the dewatering of Manhole #67 vault pit of 3300 gallons of water without consulting with the RWQCB. The CPUC EM observed that other Segment 5 construction activities were in compliance with mitigation measures adopted in the EIR and other permit requirements. Erosion controls were in place around the construction areas.

NOTICES TO PROCEED (NTP):

On January 10, 2005, NTP #1 was issued by CPUC to construct the Segment 1 (underground) and Segment 5 (unincorporated San Mateo County only) portions of the Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Project within San Mateo County. PG&E continues with the submittal of pre-construction compliance materials for other portions of the project. PG&E has noted that they are interested in receiving the next NTP for Segment 3 and Segment 5 (incorporated).

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

One Non-Compliance Report (NCR) and two Project Memorandums (PMs) have been issued for the project to date (see Table 1). A letter from the CPUC was issued on February 9 discussing the non-compliance issues and other unresolved issues. A multi-agency meeting has been scheduled with PG&E and their subcontractors for February 28 to discuss non-compliance issues.

TABLE 1
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE STATUS
(Updated 2-23-05)

Project Memo or NCR	Date Issued	Description	Follow-Up Activities
NCR (Level 3)	2-01-05	Segment 2 – Dismantling and removal of woodrat nests along the overhead route without consulting with CDFG.	PG&E consulting with CDFG on how to proceed.
PM	2-09-05	Segment 1 - Breach of trenching activities into vegetated drainage on east side of Cañada Road between MH #7 and MH #8.	PG&E consulting with CDFG and USFWS on how to proceed.
PM	2-16-05	Segment 5 – Dewatering of Manhole #67 vault pit without consulting with RWQCB on handling of water	PG&E consulting with RWQCB on how to proceed with storm water and groundwater.

VARIANCE REQUESTS:

Variance Request #2 for use of staging area in South San Francisco was submitted for review on February 4 and was approved by the CPUC on February 9.

TABLE 2
VARIANCE REQUEST STATUS
 (Updated 2-23-05)

Variance Request #	Date Submitted	Description	Status	CPUC Approval Date
1	1-14-05	40 Edwards Court, Burlingame – Paved parking lot that is fenced to be used as a staging yard.	Approved	1-18-05
2	2-04-05	Staging yard, Airport Boulevard & North Access Road., South San Francisco.	Approved	2-09-05
3	2-22-05	Change compliance timing for Mitigation Measure U-1c, corrosion, from pre-construction to during construction.	Under review.	

UPCOMING ITEMS:

PG&E holds weekly meetings to review issues and upcoming events for Segment 1 on Friday (12:00 pm, San Mateo BV office) and Tuesday (8:00 am, Hayward BV office), and a weekly meeting for Segment 5 on Tuesdays (9:00 am, Hayward BV office).

A CPUC sponsored meeting with CDFG, USFWS, RWQCB, and PG&E and their subcontractors to discuss non-compliance issues has been scheduled for February 28.

AGENCY PERSONNEL CONTACTS:

On Tuesday, February 15, the CPUC EM left a phone message with Dave Johnston of CDFG to confirm that the biological monitoring for frogs and snakes was set up as he and Mary Hammer of USFWS intended.

On Wednesday, February 16, Dave Johnston of CDFG called the CPUC EM to get specific information as to how the project was being conducted in relation to biological monitoring.

On Wednesday, February 16, Mary Hammer of USFWS called the CPUC EM to get specific information as to how the project was being conducted in relation to biological monitoring.

On Friday, February 18, Habte Kifle of RWQCB called the CPUC EM to discuss stormwater and ground-water issues on the project.

Photographs



Figure 1 – Manhole #5 excavation along Cañada Road, Segment 1, February 14, 2005



Figure 2 – Manhole #6 cement slurry poured and rings set, Segment 1, February 16, 2005



Figure 3 – Moth on biological exclusion fencing near Manhole #5, Segment 1, February 17, 2005



Figure 4 – Trench being paved between Manhole #7 and #8, Segment 1, February 18, 2005



Figure 5 – Manhole #67 covered and sandbagged to prevent stormwater from entering area, Segment 5, February 17, 2005